

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Examiner:
Applicant: Brunswick Corporation

Date: October 20, 2003

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Serial No.:
Filed:

Docket No.: M09658
Group No.:

15

Title: DETECTION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A PROPELLER DRIVEN
MARINE VESSEL WITH A FALSE TRIGGERING PREVENTION
CAPABILITY

RELATED ART STATEMENT

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

25

Sir:

Submitted herewith are the following copies of related art which are shown on
attached form PTO-1449 and which constitute the closest art of which applicant(s) is/are
aware relating to the invention of the above-identified application. Except for the internet
30 sites described below, this related art is described in the specification of the above-
identified application.

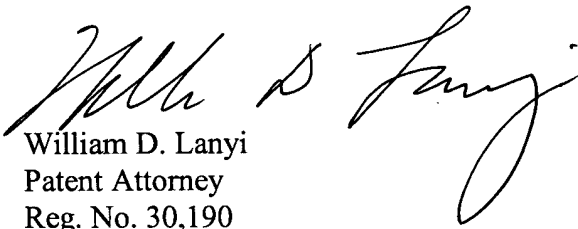
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A significant quantity of information relating to propeller technology can be
obtained from the Internet. A website (<http://www.rbbi.com>) contains several articles
regarding detection devices for marine vessels. One particular article discusses United
States patent number 6,354,892 which is described above. In an article entitled "What
if???", the author observes that a system that senses people in the area of a propeller can
be beneficial. A different article on that same website, entitled "Disciplines Sensing
Presence" describes various applications in which sensors can be used to detect the
presence of people or animals.

In an article entitled "RBBI Inventions" on that same website
(<http://www.rbbi.com>) many inventions are described. One of those inventions describes
the possibility that injury to humans can occur when a boat is stopped or backing up and
the propeller is in gear. It also mentions several types of non-contact sensors, such as
5 light sensors, motion sensors, lasers, heat sensors, etc. These are used to detect things
and people in certain areas. This section of the article then poses a question, with regard
to this sensing technology, concerning the transom area of a boat and a danger zone near
the propeller. In this same paragraph, the article proposes that the system be
electronically capable of shifting the gears to neutral, setting off an alarm, or handling the
10 situation in some other way. It suggests that a "black box" with a few sensors might be
used for these purposes. This article also mentions several concepts relating to the use of
radar.

This submission of related art is not a representation that a prior art search has
been made or that the disclosed art is the closest related art to the present invention.

15 Respectfully Submitted,

20 
William D. Lanyi
Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 30,190

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Staerzl, Richard E.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	Mo9658

Sheet	1	of	2
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to office. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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		Filing Date			
		First Named Inventor		Staerzl, Richard E.	
		Art Unit			
		Examiner Name			
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	MO9658

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		"Propeller Guard Update", 2002-2003, (Internet Website : http://www.rbbi.com/invent/guard/propg/updates/2002/prop2002.htm)	
		"What if???" (Internet Website: http://www.rbbi.com/invent/guard/propg/whatif.htm)	
		"Disciplines Sensing Presence" (Internet Website: http://www.rbbi.com/invent/guard/propg/discip.htm)	
		RBBI Inventions (Internet Website: http://www.rbbi.com/invent/invrbbi.htm)	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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